

Serial No. 08/734,443
Filed: 17 October 1996

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17, 20, and 30 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): A variant vascular endothelial cell growth factor (VEGF) polypeptide which is capable of binding to a VEGF receptor without significantly inducing a VEGF response, said variant polypeptide comprising an amino acid modification of at least one cysteine residue in VEGF at positions 51 and/or 60 of the native VEGF amino acid sequence, wherein said amino acid modification inhibits disulfide bond formation.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 wherein said amino acid modification is a substitution of said at least one cysteine residue with a different amino acid which is incapable of participating in the formation of a disulfide bond.

Claim 21 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 wherein said VEGF polypeptide is capable of inhibiting induction of a VEGF response.

Claim 22 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 21 wherein said variant VEGF response is mitogenic activity.

Claim 23 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein two cysteines are substituted with a different amino acid at amino acid positions 51 and 60.

Claim 24 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 51.

Claim 25 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 60.

Claim 26 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 19 wherein aspartic acid is substituted for cysteine.

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Claim 27 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 24 comprising the substitution C51D.

Claim 28 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 25 comprising the substitution C60D.

Claim 29 (previously amended): The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 wherein said amino acid modification is a chemical modification of said at least one cysteine residue which renders said cysteine residue incapable of participating in the formation of a disulfide bond.

Claim 31 (previously amended): An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a sequence that encodes the variant VEGF polypeptide of claim 18.

Claim 32 (previously amended): A replicable expression vector capable in a transformant host cell of expressing the nucleic acid of claim 31.

Claim 33 (previously amended): Host cells transformed with the vector according to claim 32.

Claim 34 (previously amended): Host cells according to claim 33 which are Chinese hamster ovary cells.

Claim 35 (previously amended): A composition of matter comprising the variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim 18 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.